

Message Text

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ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 TRSE-00
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY BONN ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

INFO USMISSION USUN NY

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECOSOC, EGEN, EIVN

SUBJECT: ECOSOC WORKING GROUP ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS - SECOND
SESSION

REF: STATE 267952

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1. ECOSOC AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP ON
CORRUPT PRACTICES WILL HOLD ITS FIRST SUBSTANTIVE MEETING
FROM JANUARY 31 TO FEBRUARY 11, 1977. AT FIRST MEETING
IN NOVEMBER 1976, US WAS THE ONLY WEO MEMBER, WITH OTHER
INTERESTED WEOS PARTICIPATING AS OBSERVERS. WEO'S WERE
ALLOCATED 4 OF THE 18 SEATS BUT FAILED TO AGREE ON WHICH

OF THE OTHER CANDIDATES (BELGIUM, CANADA, NETHERLANDS, UK, FRANCE, NORWAY, FRG AND ITALY) WOULD FILL 3 REMAINING SEATS. (WE UNDERSTAND NETHERLANDS HAS INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO WITHDRAW.)

2. THIS SITUATION WAS TOLERABLE AT NOVEMBER MEETING, WHICH WAS LARGELY PROCEDURAL BUT IT DID IMPEDE ELECTION OF OFFICERS OTHER THAN CHAIRMAN. NEXT MEETING WILL ADDRESS SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES, SOME OF WHICH ARE POLITICALLY CONTROVERSIAL. IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT

TO HAVE FULL WEO PARTICIPATION. IT COULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE A WEO REPRESENTATIVE SERVE AS RAPPORTEUR.

3. IF WEO'S CANNOT AGREE ON MEMBERS (OTHERS CAN PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY AS OBSERVERS), WE SUGGEST THEY MAKE SPECIFIC PROPOSAL TO G-77 AND EASTERN EUROPEANS THAT WORKING GROUP BE EXPANDED TO GIVE WEO'S 6 SEATS IN THE GROUP (2 MORE THAN NOW AUTHORIZED), LEAVING 5 TO BE FILLED. WE BELIEVE THIS IS THE MAXIMUM FEASIBLE NUMBER G-77 WILL ACCEPT. EVEN ATTAINING THIS WOULD BE DIFFICULT AND DOUBTFUL AT BEST.

4. ECOSOC ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION LAST WEEK POSTPONED TO THE 62ND SESSION OF ECOSOC (APRIL 12 TO MAY 13) THE ELECTION OF THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP. HOWEVER, WE ASSUME A QUICK RESUMED ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION COULD BE HELD FOR THESE ELECTIONS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF THE WORKING GROUP.

5. WHATEVER THE OUTCOME, WE HOPE INTERESTED NON-MEMBER WEO'S WILL CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE AS ACTIVE OBSERVERS.

6. REQUEST EMBASSIES CALL ON APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS TO URGE RESOLUTION OF THIS ISSUE, DRAWING ON PARAGRAPHS 1-5 ABOVE AS TALKING POINTS.

7. FOR LONDON: WE HAVE SUGGESTED TO HARRY MINGAY (OF TRADE DEPARTMENT) THAT UK, AS CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE 9, MAY BE IN POSITION TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN RESOLVING THE WEO MEMBERSHIP PROBLEM. IF THERE IS TO BE ANY CHANCE OF PERSUADING G-77 AND EASTERN EUROPEANS TO EXPAND WEO PARTICIPATION IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WEO'S PRESENT CONCRETE PROPOSAL WITH SPECIFIC CANDIDATES. KEY TO SUCH ARRANGEMENTS IS EC AGREEMENT ON NO MORE THAN 2 OR 3 CANDIDATES.

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